C. R. Gregg—

1853,

Dysentery

Pennsylvania

Dysentery

As an Epidemic produces its fearful
malignity, whenever it makes its
appearance which is usually found
to be in the miasmatic districts
of countries, much dependant upon
the vicissitudes of the climate
and mostly prevalent during the
months of August, September and
October, having some analagous
symptoms to those of Cholera, yet a
disease manifesting its own characteristic
train of symptoms, unin-
fluenced & unconnected with any
other Epidemic. Cholera prevails at
seasons or periods of the year independant
of the same cause, Dysentery only prevails
at certain seasons of the year & occasion-
ally assumes the place of fever, with
similar paroxysms, dependant upon
the same remote cause, Cholera does
not assume the place of fever nor is it
dependant upon the same remote cause.

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neither has it secular patronage yet allopathic Physicians for want of ability to give specific aid pronounce it Cholera Dysentery or in other words when Cholera prevails in the Cities a species of Cholera predominates throughout the neighboring Counties in the form of diarrhoea & dysentery an appellation well calculated to pervert the truth Maintain its ominous influence & fatal unheeded consequences, upon a popular community, inasmuch that this Theory gives admittance to the abominable Cholera nostrums in the shape of Compounds, so fatal in their administration to the pathology of Dysentery.

again this theory in its fatal aspect aids the Reputation popularity & infallibility of Physicians.

Dysentery prevailed in the United States when there was no Cholera, having the same complication of Symptoms, hence I am at a loss to know from when our competitors have

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thin authority to change the character and pathology of the disease, and to transfigure it into Spasmodic Asiatic Cholera, unless it should be that the mortality was so great under their prescriptions that it became necessary to change the theory; tho' unfortunately an assumption that proved itself futile from the fact of the deleterious effects that followed the Hawthorn Cholera treatment, so much celebrated by its advocates a few years ago. Dysentery has pronunciatory Symptoms the remote cause which may be latent a few days to several weeks. Cholera has no pronunciatory Symptoms.#

I witnessed Dysentery as an Epidimic under allopathic treatment in the fall of 1832 Pa. Deaths about 1/10 per cent, the Symptoms remaining negative, the same as they were in 1831 & 32, and no cholera then in this Country. Allopathic Remedies then used in its treatment Hawthorn & Drake.

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Bleeding leeching blistering & cupping.
Calomel "Hydrar cum creta nux Acid blue
mass & blue ointment, Sulphur & ol oliva
ol Terebinth' Pulv Doveri, opium, camphor,
Pulv, Rhei, castor oil, Bal Copaiba, & c
Stringents, Acetum Plumbum, Kino,
Bark of the white oak, opium, as Injections.
Demulcents, for drink, Semulini, Elm bark
Gum Arabic. & c.
At another period in 1842, & 3, York Co Pa
I met the Epidemic with similar
results, under allopathic treatment.
Again at this time I turned Homeopathic
& treated about 100 cases, Deaths 4 per cent.
I witnessed the disease as an Epidemic
in 29, 30, & 31. Wayne & Holmes Counties
Ohio, three hundred deaths occurred
in four Townships, in the latter Co,
noted by Mr A. Deaths 10 per cent.
Symptoms remaining negative the
Same in progress & malignity & no
change in the remedies & mode of
treatment allopathically, since

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1892, Save one Physician claims the use of icewater for drink, as a great acquisition in the cure of D. I will here give a few cases for Illustration as a Type of Medical treatment all among the vast number that perished in Wayne & Holmes Counties, for lack of Specific aid. J. Hitchcomb lost his whole family six Children in the fall of 90, Pixley M.D. attending Phy' 3, Daughters aet 7, 11, & 16, one Son 8, died which were treated principally with purgatives of Castor oil, "Hydra" cum creta, Pulv Doveri & Icewater drink, took 8 oz, from 2 to 6 hours day & night, another 2 years I should have mentioned. all expired within two weeks, after which another the last remaining Daughter aet 12 took the Epidemic & under treatment 20 days during that time took 6 bottles of castor oil the above medicines were administered more or less every 3 hours expired on the 36th day. in each first Symp' Vomiting.

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H. M. Canty act 28 Bilious temperament & of robust Constitution, attended by Doct A. who stated he would give him Calomel to cleanse the bowels, & sweat it out of him with dovers powder, he expired on the 10th day, Mr H. vomited down, nine hundred & fifty bloody evacuations, stating that he was hard to kill.

During the last named period I treated 180 cases. Deaths 8 per cent.

On the remote cause & cure.

The cause being the same or similar to that of fever. medicinal agents floating in the atmosphere at that period of the year when they have come to maturity & exhale their medicinal properties throughout the marshy districts of countries different families of vegetable botanical plants, arising with the dews of the night and exposed to the winds subject to minute extensions in their devisibility of

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Infinitisimal Matter exposed to friction through the medium of the atmosphere would have a tendency to render matter potent and whatever variety the agent may be would display its pathogenisis upon the human organism adapted to its reception, coming in contact with the cutanious exhalents Saliva or respiration, perhaps at a time when the diet consisted principally of vegetables in a season when fruits are plenty Should this be the case in a Marshy locality the exudations of different plants acted upon by friction in the air, will produce different Varieties of Dysentery.
which under ethis circumstances of the Season from the same Atmospheric Medicinal exudations, of plants, differ-ent types of fever would eventually fol-low. hence the remote causes are not dependant upon the usual Idea, of Vege-table Miasmata arising from Stagnent

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confined bodies of water, but does depend upon a variety of numerous exudations vegetable animal & mineral in the form of exhalation, being driven & exposed to friction by the action of the atmosphere. Ranunculus bulbosus, crowfoot, or buttercup, Rubus Villosus, & a Species of Vitroselinum. these indigenous plants, were used among the natives of Holmes County more particularly the ranunculus, boiled in Sweet milk and drunk in repeated draughts, in the primary Stage of the Epidemic, was more successful in various Sections of the country, than their allopathic treatments. I witnessed whole families who were relieved by the administration of this agent. these plants are found in abundance in high as well as low marshy plans throughout the Western Country. Thus we may discover Shina, capsicum, wild Chamomile, Eupatorium, Lobelia inflata, &c. in Marshy localities

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which at the proper period of the year
July & august, neither fever nor Dysentery
as an Epidemic appear from common causes
before this time, an evidence that the plants
have come to maturity & expose their
Medicinal virtues, to the influence of the
Sun, Dews, & the night, & atmosphere.
is it china the result will be a china
fever, three paroxysms, chill fever & sweating
this in the fever, Quotidian or Tertian.
is it Capsicum but little chill a high
fever & sweating intense thirst in the chill
and fever, Of the latter discipline I noticed
the most fevers in the fall of the year believing
them to be produced by similar capsicum
agents, among the wild grapes. I cured
them readily & successfully with Capsicum.
is it Eupatorium a fever of the same kind
will be produced, & will readily yield
to the 3d & 6 potencies of eupatorium similar.
the first symptoms of Dysentery are usually
ushered in by nausea & vomiting which is
contained in the pathogenisis of Lobelia inflata

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and Ipecacuanah, in numerous cases in the primary stage of the Epidemic I have arrested the entire disease with a single dose of Ipica.

Thus the remedy that gives origin to the disease will cure it.

Query, has the remedy corresponding to the disease a superior power, as conjectured by Tully & some of our modern writers. I answer in the negative. The morbid affection in question progresses agreeably to the pathogenesis of the agent, (homœopathic matter) that had entered the medium of the circulation now displaying its symptoms upon the vital organism this action of the pathogenesis, as the remote cause, becomes morbid and negative. whereas the corresponding remedy selected which should be the acting agent itself, or one like it, when it enters the circulation it becomes positive the antidote & the cure.

For example the Rhus toxicodendron or poison oak of California

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Will produce its deleterious & poisonous
effects upon persons & animals approa-
ching its shades, causing a rash more
or less inflammation pain & swelling.
it is well known to the natives that when
they become accidentally poisoned
will resort to the leaves of the tree and
chew them or make a weak infusion
which they take to antidote & cure it.
My Son who was a subject of this accidental
experiment, while laboring in the Southern
Mines of California, imperceptibly got
under one of these trees, and from
its venemous exudations became
violently poisoned, a rancher with
whom he boarded directed him to
chew the leaves he did so, which gave
him instantaneous relief, he related this
as a common occurance among the
inhabitants of that country.
Hence should this prove true for which
we have strong evidence our conclusions
must terminate at a negative & positive action. #

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In this Epidimic as well as in many others, the truth in a successful treatment must be sought for, and is like the brazen Image which Moses lifted up in the Wilderness that when the Assyrians looked upon it, in this maladies, the effect was positive, by promise, and was life. whilst those that did not look upon the Image, the effect remained Negative and was mortal.

In conclusion on the treatment of Dysentery What little experience I have had in Country practice the Main Specifics were Ipica & Mercurius Vivus the 2d & 3d Trituration with these I could Mostly succeed in arresting the disease, with from 6 to 8 doses, in the primary Stage, where there failed I had local Inflammation to contend with. & My confidence would Centre upon high potencies from 18 to 30. alternating Remedies as they were found, Corresponding & And Therapeutics, the Materia Medica will become as familiar to the Scientific practitioner, as the Seven notes of Music are to the Novice.

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Notes. Fragmentary Contributions.

Mr David Feehrer, aet. 53,
when in the act of puting up a Swarm of bees,
was stung by some half dozen, felt alarming
effects immediately on being stung, came
running to my office, stating that his breath
was gone, & that he was swelling all over, now
gasping for his breath, which was hurried and
laborious his face bloated and the whole Syp
tem covered with Small elevated tumours
from the size of a pea to that of a filbert & a
burning Sensation in connection. As this case
demanded instantaneous aid I Supposed
olive oil to be Antidote & on a moments Reflection
gave him 3ij, in five minutes could See
the rash pass off and in 30 Minute more
he was relieved of all the Symptoms.

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Mr H Hufman aet 22.

of bilious temperament.

After eating water mellons too freely, took a pain in the Epigastric Region, that he said he could cover with the end of his finger. inflammation & fever came on, sent for two Physicians, who pronounced it (enteritis) of the bowels. bled the patient copiously, & evacuated the bowels with cathartics, & injections, continued the bleeding daily for eight days, 8 to 10 ounces, blistered the abdomen, he was much prostrated by this course, & gradually sunk under treatment. I was sent for, on the 10th day, & on examination found the case to be Intro-susception, nothing had hitherto passed through the bowels, or at least through the local injury. I placed two gallons of warm water at the bedside, which I used as an injection, forcing it through the elementary canal, & when the current passed the introsusepted part, the patient screamed out, when the Reduction was effected. & from that hour recovered, aided by a few days Rest.

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Mr George Wolf ae 32 1

of Sanguine bilious temperament

After Mental excitement at a Religious night meeting in the Month of April, 1840 left the crowd at midnight when in a State of perspiration, the night being cold & somewhat rough, rode home five miles, on his arival to meet a fine wife & 4 small children hailing his footsteps at the door, what was the surprize of the astonished family to meet him mentally deranged from an attack upon the brain, turned on & the wife & children who fled to the neighbors for relief, when a crowd were assembled together by next morning. the family Physician Dr S was sent for who became alarmed & pronounced it, in Consul Dr Cummins, "Hydrophobia, the patient had rid himself of all clothing in a State of demented, the saliva flowing in clouds from his mouth Reference was had to the water test, which apparently increased the furious paroxysms, from this, Physicians Cummins & Shriver concluded that the case was Madness from the "Hydrophobia

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I opposed the Conclusion, and avowed that the Remote Cause was cold, and the proximate Cause inflammation of the brain. Gluck M.D. of Carlisle so concured in this opinion, tho' declined the treatment that it was impracticable short of the hospital. to this I asked leave of at least making an effort, this was granted.

I placed the hospital jacket upon him, and two grains of tartar emetic in a Tablespoonful of water, gave a spoonful occasionally during the intermission which calmed him down by nausea. Sent to a Neighboring Inn for a quantity of Ice, that I directed to be applied in sacks to the head after being shown, until a change would be evinced which occured satisfactorily on the third day, Continued the tartar emetic, every 6 hours, and on the fifth day, was rational, & convalescent.

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Mrs Hopkins aet 30, of Phlegmatic temperament
was attacked with Murmorrhagia, sent
for C Grimshaw M.D. who gave her acetate
plumbum in ½ gr doses, every 3 hours, this
arrested the discharges, but unfortunately
for the M.D. it brot on (Colica Pictonum)
constipation severe pain over the abdominal
regions, tenderness pain on pressure tympanitic
distension of the intines, Dysuria, numbness
over the whole system, paralytic symptoms
of the extremities, suppression of the secretions a
heavy feeling & oppression across the chest, nausea
& occasional sickness at the Stomach, restless
inclination to Sleep but could not Sleep, thirst,
dryness of the Skin, & a Sluggish pulse &c.
after 6 days treatment, to meet the pathogenesis of
lead, was found ineffectual, I was now called
in consultation with Dr G, who was not aware that
he had painters Colic to contend with, from the
drugs, he had administered, pointing out to
him Some of the relative Symptoms above stated
to which he took offence & departed, having
previously directed his therapeutics to the
costive State of the bowels, by administering Castor
=oil & Turpentine with injections, to alleviate

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the suffering & pain Pulv Dovii and of Comm a little Calomel was given, Yet the Constipation remained until the 7th day, the dangs now being imminent, I immediately directed Mag & repeated doses of Sulphate of Magnesia also by injections with milk & water, immediate relief followed and the patient had an evacuation from the bowels in 12 hours. Opium & Bel were given alternately on which she recovered speedily.

Mrs Hoover act 38, Germ, Choleic temperament.

Cephaloid tumour of the O. Uteri of the size of a walnut. Allopathic Treatment by S. Sigart M.D. 3 Months, pain & suffering inward in the hypogastric region, painful to the touch per Vagina, Acharous & offensive discharge, burning lancinating & shooting pain, Syncope on rising from bed, uneasiness & distress at Stomach connected with Indigestion, hysterics, costiveness alternated with diarrhoea, headach hot skin & much irritation with debility, coldness of the feet & legs.

Treatment, Sul, Mur, Bel, Con, Aurum, Ars, Nux & Lac.

For the Chief Specific was Arsenicum under the power of this agent, the tumour disappeared in 6 months, and Since was delivered of a Child.

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